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Carol Hanlon  
U. S. Department of Energy  
**Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office**

SEP 06 2001

Dear Carol Hanlon,

In addition **to the more visible objections to placing nuclear waste within Yucca Mountain**, like problems with transportation and **ground-water** pollution, some other hazards are worthy of consideration. Four points come immediately to mind:

1. Yucca Mountain is located in a **geological spreading** zone. The crust of the earth is much thinner there than in most places, and fault lines criss-cross the mount and surrounding area, in some directions for hundreds of miles. If a nuclear repository really **must** be constructed, it makes more sense to build it centered on some tectonic plate where the **geologic** environment is more stable.

**2. Scientists and technologists can make computer projections and do studies, but** as history has proven, **often** even the most obvious can be overlooked by the **designing group**. It is understood that the wastes are warm, some hot, and will heat up even more when **brought** into the proximity of one another. How much they will heat up is anybody's **guess**. In fact, once 77,000 tons of the stuff is all together in one place, if it gets too hot to handle, and combines it's heat with that of the **Earth's mantle, it may possibly produce somekind of volcanic activity. A nuclear volcano?**

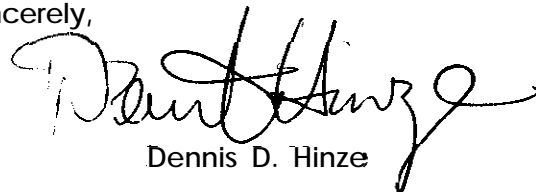
3. The trade winds across the United States of America blow generally from west to east. With Yucca Mountain located in the western part of the **country**, many densely populated areas lie downwind of the proposed repository site. If any accident releasing radioactivity into the atmosphere occurs in the next 20,000 years, a large part of the nation could be put in jeopardy.

4. Yucca Mountain is designed to **accomodate** 77,000 tons of hot waste, and that is the amount that has built up in the last 50 years since nuclear power came on the scene, touted as cheap, clean energy. Even with no increase in nuclear waste generation, the repository people will have **to** find another suitable site in 50 years, and **again** 50 years later and so on. The point here may be made most graphic by seeing that by the **time** Yucca Mountain cools **off**, hundreds of similar sites **will** have to be secured. This could result in large portions of the **U.S.A. becoming** uninhabitable.

**It would be prudent to stop manufacturing and generating nuclear products until a way is found to neutralize the waste, which otherwise will remain biologically harmful for 20 to 50 thousand years. As humans, our recorded history goes back only a few thousand years. How can we, with any conscience, impose on hundreds of generations of our ancestors with this lethal garbage?**

Just say **"YUCK"** to Yucca Mountain!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Hinze